AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A printing apparatus comprising:

a print head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting ink to form dots, wherein said print head has a first nozzle row for ejecting ink having color material and a second nozzle row for ejecting ink not having color material;

wherein a number per unit area of droplets of said ink not having color material, which are discharged by said second nozzle row, is less than a number per unit area of droplets of said ink having color material, which are discharged by said first nozzle row;

wherein the nozzles making up said first and said second nozzle rows are arranged with a predetermined spacing between adjacent nozzles in a sub-scanning direction; and

wherein scanning is carried out by partially overlapping scanning paths of said print head such that a gap created due to said spacing in said sub-scanning direction is filled in.

2. (original): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a number of said droplets of said ink not having color material, which are discharged by said second nozzle row, per unit length in a main scanning direction is less than a number of said droplets of said ink having color material, which are discharged by said first nozzle row, per unit length in the main scanning direction.

3. (original): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a number of said droplets of said ink not having color material, which are discharged by said second nozzle row, per unit length in a sub-scanning direction is less than a number of said droplets of said ink having color material, which are discharged by said first nozzle row, per unit length in the sub-scanning direction.

4. (original): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a number of nozzles making up said second nozzle row is less than a number of nozzles making up said first nozzle row.

5. (cancelled).

6. (original): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said ink having color material is a pigment-based ink; and

said ink not having color material includes a component for increasing a degree of luster.

7. (original): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

dots of said ink not having color material are formed at an area where a density of dots of said ink having color material is low in accordance with that density.

8. (original): A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said ink not having color material includes a component for preventing bleeding of said ink having color material; and

dots of said ink not having color material are formed at an area where a density of dots of said ink having color material is high in accordance with that density.

9. (currently amended): A printing apparatus ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising:

a print head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting ink to form dots, wherein said print head has a first nozzle row for ejecting ink having color material and a second nozzle row for ejecting ink not having color material;

wherein a number per unit area of droplets of said ink not having color material, which are discharged by said second nozzle row is less than a number per unit area of droplets of said ink having said color material, which are discharged by said first nozzle row; and

wherein ~~a nozzle group~~each of all the nozzles making up said first nozzle row and ~~a nozzle group~~ each of all the nozzles making up said second nozzle row are arranged such that they are misaligned in a sub-scanning direction by a fixed distance.

10. (cancelled).

11. (currently amended): A printing method employing a print head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting ink to form dots, said print head having a first nozzle row for ejecting ink having color material and a second nozzle row for ejecting ink not having color material, said method comprising:

a step of discharging droplets of said ink having color material using said first nozzle row; and

a step of discharging droplets of said ink not having color material using said second nozzle row;

wherein a number per unit area of said droplets of said ink not having color material, which are discharged by said second nozzle row, is less than a number per unit area of said droplets of said ink having color material, which are discharged by said first nozzle row;

wherein the nozzles making up said first and said second nozzle rows are arranged with a predetermined spacing between adjacent nozzles in a sub-scanning direction; and

wherein scanning is carried out by partially overlapping scanning paths of said print head such that a gap created due to said spacing in said sub-scanning direction is filled in.

12. (currently amended): A print head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting ink to form dots, comprising:

a first nozzle row for ejecting ink having color material; and

a second nozzle row for ejecting ink not having color material;

wherein a number of nozzles making up said second nozzle row is less than a number of nozzles making up said first nozzle row; and

wherein each of all the nozzles making up said first nozzle row and each of all the nozzles making up said second nozzle row are arranged such that they are misaligned in a sub-scanning direction by a fixed distance.

13. through 16. (cancelled).

17. (new): A printing apparatus, comprising:

a print head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting ink to form dots, wherein said print head has a first nozzle row for ejecting ink having color material and a second nozzle row for ejecting ink not having color material;

wherein a number per unit area of droplets of said ink not having color material, which are discharged by said second nozzle row, is less than a number per unit area of droplets of said ink having color material, which are discharged by said first nozzle row; and

wherein each of all of the nozzles making up said second nozzle row is arranged such that

all the nozzles making up said second nozzle row are arranged at a constant pitch, and

said constant pitch is larger than a pitch at which the nozzles making up said first nozzle row are arranged.

18. (new): A printing apparatus according, comprising:

a print head having a plurality of nozzles for ejecting ink to form dots, wherein said print head has a first nozzle row for ejecting ink having color material and a second nozzle row for ejecting ink not having color material;

wherein a number per unit area of droplets of said ink not having color material, which are discharged by said second nozzle row, is less than a number per unit area of droplets of said ink having color material, which are discharged by said first nozzle row; and

wherein each of all the nozzles making up said second nozzle row is arranged such that

each of all the nozzles making up said second nozzle row is in a same position in a sub-scanning direction as one of the nozzles making up said first nozzle row, and

a spacing between adjacent nozzles making up said second nozzle row is larger than a spacing between adjacent nozzles making up said first nozzle row.